

House Study Bill 25 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON MILLER)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act allowing an advanced registered nurse practitioner to
2 sign a death certificate.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 142C.8, subsection 10, Code 2011, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 10. The physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner
4 who attends the decedent at death and the physician or advanced
5 registered nurse practitioner who determines the time of
6 death shall not participate in the procedures for removing or
7 transplanting a part from the decedent.

8 Sec. 2. Section 144.26, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 1. A death certificate for each death which occurs in this
11 state shall be filed as directed by the state registrar within
12 three days after the death and prior to final disposition,
13 and shall be registered by the county registrar if it has
14 been completed and filed in accordance with this chapter. A
15 death certificate shall include the social security number, if
16 provided, of the deceased person. All information including
17 the certifying physician's or advanced registered nurse
18 practitioner's name shall be typewritten.

19 Sec. 3. Section 144.28, subsection 1, paragraphs b and e,
20 Code 2011, are amended to read as follows:

21 *b.* Unless there is a nonnatural cause of death, the medical
22 certification shall be completed and signed by the physician
23 or advanced registered nurse practitioner in charge of the
24 patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted
25 in death within seventy-two hours after receipt of the death
26 certificate from the funeral director or individual who
27 initially assumes custody of the body.

28 *e.* If upon inquiry into a death, the county or state medical
29 examiner determines that a preexisting natural disease or
30 condition was the likely cause of death and that the death does
31 not affect the public interest as described in section 331.802,
32 subsection 3, the medical examiner may elect to defer to the
33 physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner in charge
34 of the patient's preexisting condition the certification of the
35 cause of death.

1 Sec. 4. Section 144.30, Code 2011, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **144.30 Funeral director's duty — fetal death certificate.**

4 The funeral director who first assumes custody of a fetus
5 shall file the fetal death certificate. In the absence
6 of such a person, the physician, advanced registered nurse
7 practitioner, or other person in attendance at or after the
8 delivery shall file the certificate of fetal death. The person
9 filing the certificate shall obtain the personal data from the
10 next of kin or the best qualified person or source available
11 and shall obtain the medical certification of cause of death
12 from the person responsible for completing the certification.
13 When a person other than a funeral director assumes custody of
14 a fetus, the person shall be responsible for carrying out the
15 provisions of this section.

16 Sec. 5. Section 144.31, Code 2011, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 **144.31 Medical certification — fetal death.**

19 1. The medical certification for a fetal death shall be
20 completed within seventy-two hours after delivery by the
21 physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner in
22 attendance at or after delivery except when inquiry is required
23 by the county medical examiner.

24 2. When a fetal death occurs without medical attendance
25 upon the mother at or after delivery or when inquiry is
26 required by the county medical examiner, the medical examiner
27 shall investigate the cause of fetal death and shall complete
28 the medical certification within seventy-two hours after
29 taking charge of the case. The person completing the medical
30 certification of cause of fetal death shall attest to its
31 accuracy either by signature or as authorized by rule.

32 EXPLANATION

33 This bill allows an advanced registered nurse practitioner
34 to sign a death certificate, unless there is a nonnatural cause
35 of death.